

# Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

A cooperative effort of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
and USDA NASS, Nebraska Field Office

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## Nebraska's Top National Rankings

- 1st Beef and veal exports, 2018 – \$1,318,500,000  
Commercial cattle slaughter, 2019 – 7,666,300 head  
Great Northern bean production, 2019 – 749,000 cwt. (38,049,200 kg)  
Popcorn production, 2017 – 368,620,976 lbs. (165,879,439 kg)
- 2nd All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2020 – 6,800,000 head  
All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2020 – 2,600,000 head  
Commercial red meat production, 2019 - 8,289,800,000 lbs. (3,769,190,029 kg)  
Ethanol production, Jan. 2019 – 2,186,000,000 gallons  
Pinto bean production, 2019 – 845,000 cwt. (42,926,000 kg)  
Proso millet production, 2019 – 3,286,000 bushels (74,526,480 kg)  
Light red kidney bean production, 2019 – 145,000 cwt. (7,366,000 kg)  
Bison, 2017 – 28,047 head
- 3rd Corn for grain production, 2019 – 1,785,420,000 bushels (45,349,668,000 kg)  
Corn exports, 2018 – \$1,476,600,000  
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2018 – \$11,914,468,000
- 4th Beef cows, Jan. 1, 2020 – 1,922,000 head  
Total animal products exports, 2018 – \$1,848,400,000  
Soybean production, 2019 – 283,140,000 bushels (7,701,408,000 kg)  
All dry edible bean production, 2019 – 1,883,000 cwt. (95,656,400 kg)  
Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2018 – \$21,117,971,000  
Land in farms and ranches, 2018 – 45,000,000 acres (18,210,854 ha)
- 5th Soybean exports, 2018 – \$1,218,700,000  
Alfalfa hay production, 2019 – 3,610,000 tons (3,274,992,000 kg)  
Harvested acres of principal crops, 2019 – 18,777,000 acres (7,510,800 ha)  
Cash receipts from all crops, 2018 – \$9,203,503,000
- 6th Agricultural exports, 2018 – \$6,802,300,000  
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2019 – 3,750,000 head  
Commercial hog slaughter, 2019 – 8,013,200 head  
All hay production, 2019 – 6,085,000 tons (5,520,312,000 kg)  
Grain sorghum production, 2019 – 12,090,000 bushels (307,086,000 kg)
- 7th Sugar beet production, 2019 – 1,069,000 tons (9,796,800 kg)  
Sunflower production, 2019 – 44,850,000 lbs. (20,182,500 kg)  
Pork exports, 2018 – \$246,800,000
- 8th Winter wheat production, 2019 – 55,290,000 bushels (1,503,888,000 kg)

## Nebraska Ag Facts

- Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed more than \$21 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2018 and 5.7% of the U.S. total.
- Nebraska's 10 leading commodities (in order of value) for 2018 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, wheat, dairy products (milk), misc. crops, hay, chicken eggs, and potatoes.
- Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$6.8 billion in agricultural exports in 2018 translate into \$8.7 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2018 were corn, beef and veal, soybeans, feeds and fodders, and processed grain products.
- Nebraska had 45,900 farms and ranches during 2018; the average operation consisted of 980 acres (397 ha).
- In 2018, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2.6 billion gallons.
- Livestock or poultry operations were found on 48% of Nebraska farms.
- The top five counties ranked by agricultural sales in 2017 were Cuming, Custer, Lincoln, Dawson and Platte.
- In 2016, Nebraska was 13th nationally in certified organic cropland acres (81,583) (33,015 ha.) and ranked 12th in certified organic pasture acres (25,788) (10,436 ha).
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.
- The average age of a Nebraska principal operator was 56.4 in 2017.
- From east to west, Nebraska experiences a 4,584-foot elevation difference, and the average annual precipitation decreases by one inch every 25 miles, allowing Nebraska to have a diverse agricultural industry from one side of the state to the other.

## Nebraska's Natural Resources

- Nebraska's farms and ranches utilize 45 million acres (18,210,854 ha), 92% of the state's total land area.
- Nebraska is fortunate to have aquifers below it. If poured over the surface of the state, the water in those aquifers would have a depth of 37.9 feet (11.6 meters).
- Nearly 80,000 miles of rivers and streams add to Nebraska's bountiful natural resources.
- There are 22 million acres (8,915,803 ha) of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska, half of which are in the Sandhills.

Sources: USDA NASS, USDA ERS, USDA FAS, Global Ag Trade System  
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